

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 DRC-01

/116 W

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R 311145Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4349

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AP PINT

SUBJECT: MAURITIUS DOMESTIC POLITICAL SCENE

REF: PORT LOUIS 0055

1. ANNOUNCEMENT OF REPLACEMENT ELECTED MUNICIPAL COUNCILS BY APPOINTED COMMISSIONS (REFTEL) HAS CREATED LITTLE PUBLIC IMPACT.

2. NOW EXPECTED THAT PRIMIN MAY PROCEED WITH NEW CABINET NOMINATIONS BY END OF WEEK. IN ONLY NEW DEVELOPMENT, MAURICE LESAGE, LEADER OF SMALL OPPOSITION PARTY, UDM, HAS GIVEN UP ITS LEADERSHIP TO GUY OLLIVRY, FORMER MINISTER OF PLAN BEFORE HE RESIGNED TO BECOME CO-FOUNDER OF UDM WITH LESAGE. SINCE LESAGE KNOWN TO BE STAUNCHLY ANTI-DUVAL, APPOINTMENT OF OLLIVRY MAY PRESAGE SOME MANNER OF ACCOMMODATION WITH PMSD. SPECULATION ALREADY CURRENT OVER POSSIBILITY OF "COALITION WITHIN THE OPPOSITION."

3. UDM, HBWEVER MAINTAINS LINE THAT PMSD, UNDER DUVAL, HAS NOT BEEN TRUE OPPOSITION PARTY AND HAS IN FACT BEEN AN ACCOMPLICE IN SUPPRESSION CERTAIN FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF MAURITIAN PEOPLE. THUS, NEW UDM LEADERSHIP MAY SEEK TO WEAN PMSD MEMBERS AWAY

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FROM DUVVAL THROUGH ATTRACTION TO YOUNG, ACTIVE OLLIVRY, RATHER

THAN SUSTAIN INTRANSIGENCE BETWEEN TWO PARTIES AS REPRESENTED
BY LESAGE.

4. FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE SENT VIA AIRGRAM/MEMCOM.
SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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